

# NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting  
June 30, 2025, 9:30am  
**Elko County Commission Chambers**  
**540 Court St. Suite 102**  
**Elko, NV 89801**

## ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Andreozzi, President Elect Gardner, Vice President Andriola, Past President Giomi, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg).

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** President Elect Gardner remarked on communications he had received from concerned citizens regarding the announcement that two oil refineries were to be shut down in California and what impact that may have on Nevada fuel prices. President Andreozzi noted that the closures could provide opportunities for economic growth in Nevada.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Commissioner Tipton.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Andreozzi announced that he had gifts for the members of the Board that had made the trip to Elko County, including Picon Punch glasses from the Star Hotel, as the Picon had recently been made the State Drink through the Legislature. He thanked President Elect Gardner for his leadership of the Legislative Committee during the recently concluded Legislative Session and President Elect Gardner thanked Vinson, Jennifer, and Amy for their hard work at the Legislature as well. President Andreozzi concluded his report by also thanking staff for their dedication to minimizing additional legislative impacts to counties who already operate under statutory constraints.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that a larger legislative update would be provided during agenda item 9 and thanked Elko County and County staff for hosting the meeting and assisting with the previous evening dinner arrangements. He discussed the upcoming National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference, noting that there is a lot of activity at the National level that NACo is working on. Vinson also informed the Board that information on the voting process for the NACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President would be forthcoming. He concluded his remarks by reminding the board that registration for the NACo Annual Conference was still open and encouraged attendance and participation.

5. **Approval of Minutes of May 30, 2025, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by Commissioner VanCamp.
6. **Presentation Regarding the Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center, Located in Elko County.** President Andreozzi noted that the need for the Center is unfortunate but that it is good to be able to provide the services. Elko County Manager, Amanda Osborne informed the Board that the Center was started 10 years prior by volunteers to serve the needs of Elko, Lander, Eureka, and White Pine Counties, noting that Elko County District Attorney, Tyler Ingram started the fundraising efforts which raised \$200,000 to assist with the refurbishment of the building. She explained that the Center serves the needs of children who are victims of crime and allows service providers, law enforcement and other necessary advocacy to be conducted in the same place. President Andreozzi again noted that he is thankful that the Center can provide safe and necessary services to the children in such unfortunate circumstances. He informed the Board that the Center was made possible by many donations, including many from the mining industry, the Pennington Foundation and other community partners. President Andreozzi informed the Board that it is located just up the street on College Ave., and gave them a brief history of the building, including its former uses as a church and a police station. County Manager Osborne also informed the Board that the Center receives ongoing financial contributions to pay for the services it provides. President Elect Gardner inquired as to the Center's capacity, and Ms. Osborne informed the Board that there are several rooms within the facility, including provider spaces and that it is a functional multi-use facility.
7. **Update on NACO Annual Conference Hosted by Clark County, September 23-25, 2025.** Amanda informed the Board that the event's theme Navigating Today, for Tomorrow's Excellence, had been approved. She also informed the Board that registration for the conference had opened, that staff continued to work on the educational sessions' content, and thanked Clark County for hosting and for their staff's work on the event.
8. **Discussion and Recap of the 2025 NACo County Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., Commissioner Clara Andriola, Washoe County.** Vice President Andriola expressed her appreciation for the nomination to attend the Institute, noting that when she had asked former attendee's what to expect she was told that they could not tell her, but encouraged her to take the opportunity. Vice President Andriola informed the Board that it was an intense and challenging experience, both personally and professionally. She stated that the 18-person program is facilitated by PhD's, and it became very clear that regardless of geographic location, size and demographic, counties and their Commissioners experience common issues. Vice President Andriola noted that the experience was both humbling and rewarding and that it had changed her approach to public services, noting the hardest part would be effectively executing the tools she had been given through the process. She expressed thankfulness for the accountability partners she now has that can continue to help each other navigate the continued challenges of public service. President Elect Gardner remarked on common issues including workforce housing and encourage participation in the upcoming NACo Annual Conference.
9. **NACO Legislative Committee Update Including a Summary of Outcomes from the 2025 Legislative Session.** President Elect Gardner again expressed appreciation to staff and the members of the Committee who had participated in the weekly meetings during the Session, noting that it was baffling how many issues could be developed within a year and half that seemingly need legislative intervention. He noted that while some counties do employ lobbyists, all counties can and do rely on NACO, its importance as an organization,

and the relationships built with members of the Legislature. Jennifer then directed the Board's attention to the summary document included in the agenda packet, noting that its development was a group effort to summarize the newly required actions counties must take, once again thanking President Elect Gardner, the members of the Committee and the Board for their support. She informed the Board that of the 1,210 filed bills, staff had tracked 1/2. She noted of the 606 bills passed, 557 became law and 87 were vetoed which is a new State record. Jennifer noted that of the 4 NACO bills, 50 percent were passed, AB14 which requires county elected officials to be registered voters, was signed by the Governor on May 28<sup>th</sup> and would become effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The second successful NACO bill AB70 which allows for cost recovery on renewable energy projects, was signed by Governor Lombardo on May 26<sup>th</sup> and will become effective on July 1<sup>st</sup> but will expire on June 30, 2049. She then reminded the Board that both Senate bills were unsuccessful. President Elect Gardner stated that NACO staff played a significant role in amending bills, specifically noting requirements around fiscal notes, to make them acceptable. Jennifer explained that under previous law that governed the fiscal note process, once a request was submitted, counties had 8 working days to respond. She informed the Board that staff had tracked 265 bills where fiscal notes had been requested, some of extremely high priority that required analysis and research, which some counties have limited staff to complete. Jennifer noted that AB249, which was passed with a NACO amendment and signed by the Governor, will require the fiscal analysis division to allow counties 7 additional days to respond to a fiscal note request if research is required on certain bills. Vinson stated that overall NACO coordinated with other county lobbyists and staff. He discussed challenges especially with budget issues, where Legislators were looking for revenue or pushing down services to the local level, and expressed concern with impacts not only fiscal but from the service delivery prospective, noting that staff had been especially proactive in addressing those concerns. He also discussed work done regarding concerns with proposed legislation affecting land use and zoning, affordable housing and the proposals impacts to county authority. Vinson also discussed collaboration with County Clerks on numerous bills that would make changes to elections, including proposals which would have leveraged penalties to staff and required 24/hr./day counting of ballots. He also discussed work done on proposed legislation that would have changed local government liability caps to protect taxpayers. Vinson also discussed SB116 that changed the salary for local elected officials, noting that implementation guidance had been sent to county fiscal staff and he thanked Carson City for their assistance in developing the tool. Vinson noted that the bill's passage was long overdue and that he was glad it was signed by the Governor early in the session. It was also noted that the China Spring youth facility has a new Director and that the Governor's recommendations were adopted, while the assessments for counties will be increased the State's portion of funding will increase as well. Staff's report on the item was concluded by noting that the Session was challenging and fast paced, several wins for counties were experienced, staff also encouraged the use of the final legislative tracker and summary provided with the agenda packet. President Elect Gardner thanked staff for their efforts to maintain the funding for both China and Aurora Springs noting that the facilities are important for 16 of Nevada's 17 counties. He also informed the Board that he is working on a visitation day for Commissioners, as the facilities reside in his commission district. Commissioner Kirkpatrick expressed appreciation of the work of staff and informed the Board that the NACO team is trusted and respected as a resource for new legislators, noting that the work done by staff with legislators and with the Governor's office was important. She cautioned about a potential special session in the fall, depending on activities in Washington DC. Vice President Andriola also thanked staff, noting that their respect as resources is a testament to the reputation of NACO and Nevada's county governments. She then inquired what the process and timeline is for preparing for the next Legislative Session. Vinson stated that work done in the interim is important, but that will largely be

driven by the number of interim committees established, noting that the changes implemented in 2021 created almost as many interim committees as there are during the Session and all of them receive BDRs, he also noted that staff regularly gives presentations to interim committees and staff will also work on areas of improvement internally. He noted that BDRs would be due in approximately 15 months, and the vetting process would begin in early 2026 when the legislative committee resumes monthly meetings, noting that work would be driven by the needs of and challenges being experienced by counties. Commissioner Strickland thanked staff for the work on SB116, and the item was concluded by Amy stating that her update would be given under the following agenda item.

10. **Possible Approval to Authorize NACO's Executive Director to Provide Performance Bonus for Government Affairs Staff as a Result of Efforts During the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature.** Vinson informed the Board that he did not have a specific number in mind yet and reminded them that he has the existing authority to approve bonuses but that he brought the item to the Board to recognize staff for their accomplishments. He reminded the Board that Jennifer relocates to Carson City for the session. Vinson recognized Amy's contribution of adding several bills to the legislative tracker and her work on bills that would affect county human services. President Andreozzi noted that staff's days begin early and end late, thanked Jennifer for a joyful tour of the newly renovated Legislative building, and stated that advocacy at the Legislature on behalf of counties is one of the most important tasks NACO performs, noting that he felt bonus' for government affairs staff were appropriate. No motion was necessary as the item was covered under existing staff authority.
11. **Review and Approval of Estimate to Replace Aging Boiler at the NACO Offices.** Vinson directed the Board's attention to the estimate included in the agenda packet. He informed the Board that the boiler had failed and that it had been determined that it was most likely installed in the early 80's. Vinson informed the Board that the estimated amount requires Board approval as it is slightly over his existing authority. He also informed the Board that repairs had been completed but would continue to be needed and parts were hard to find due to the unit's age. The replacement of the boiler was approved on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Commissioner Herman.
12. **Approval of NACO's February, March and April 2025 Financial Statements, respectively.** Vinson reminded the Board that the statements are brought to the Board for review and approval quarterly. He noted that expenses are on track with the approved budget and that gaps in the income line items are due to the annual conference not yet taking place and not yet realized interest incomes. The financial statements were approved on a motion by President Elect Gardner with second by Commissioner Tipton
13. **Update from NACO's Health and Human Services Manager.** Amy informed the Board that of the changes made to Health and Human Services during the Legislative Session, one of the most substantial was the restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to DHS (Department of Human Services) and the Nevada Health Authority (NVHA), which is intended to increase access to care, improve efficiency, and lower costs. She gave a high-level overview of the units moving to the new Nevada Health Authority, noting that the move would give the Public Employee Benefit Program and Medicaid a better deal on insurance coverage. Amy informed the Board that she is working closely with the State on the changes and a meeting was held that Monday regarding Medicaid eligibility and other impacts from the legislative session. She informed the Board that changes to public health authority will shuffle functions across agencies that counties pay assessments to and that food related inspections will be transferred to the Department of Agriculture,

noting that adding inspectors may free up existing inspectors to devote more time to other areas that require inspection processes. She informed the Board that she will continue to coordinate with the agencies on new processes. She also shared that NACO successfully worked with Director Goicoechea during session to ensure that the State considers all available sources of revenue (such as fees or state budget), not just county assessments, in new plans to create sustainable public health services at the Department of Agriculture. Vice President Andriola requested clarification on the names of the restructured units and Amy stated that the Department of Health & Humans Services is now the Department of Human Services. The newly created department is the Nevada Health Authority, and the Division of Welfare & Supportive Services (DWSS) is now the Division of Social Services. She informed the Board that she has a summary from the meeting that had been held, and a new organizational chart is available. Amy informed the Board that the agencies taking on a public health service for which counties are assessed pledged to keep the amounts at the status quo until new regulations can be developed in partnership with counties. Counties will likely receive assessments from the newly responsible agencies, but this is still being worked out. She will continue to work to mitigate the impacts of those assessments, again reminding the Board that the Director of the Department of Agriculture will look to fees for services first. Commissioner Kirkpatrick noted that while at first Clark County was opposed to the transfer of cottage food permissions, she is now comfortable with the change after speaking to the Director. She also noted that the State is not covering the costs associated with the licensing and inspection of farmers markets etc. and that having a person in each jurisdiction will be a benefit, as well as the delay of implementation being a positive to ensure a smooth transition. President Andreozzi inquired as to septic and water permitting. Amy informed him that individual septic permitting will be moved to the Nevada Health Authority and public water systems would remain with NDEP. President Andreozzi noted that the Spring Creek area of Elko County has a water system but is on septic not sewer and the current infrastructure does not meet fire flow requirements, noting that is something to flag for future consideration. Amy then discussed AB269 which expanded student loan forgiveness to include public health service to help counties with recruitment of public health staff. She discussed urban issues with child welfare and noted opportunities for collaboration with the State and counties. She informed the Board that additional funding for public health was not received under SB423, but she will continue to work to that end and reminded them that the existing \$15M was included in the Governor's budget. Directing the Boards attention to the document included in the agenda packet she noted that tribes are now included in the distribution model but that allows for collaboration. She also noted that while the county share is reduced by the inclusion of tribes, it is now sustainable funding. Amy also discussed work being done to improve the county match process to ensure the correct populations are being covered, Medicaid reimbursement, and prepare counties for the justice-involved reentry programing waivers being approved 90 days prior to release to not delay service delivery. Commissioner Kirkpatrick informed the Board that NACO continues to work on the justice piece and that she is still working on the challenges counties have regarding capacity to bill Medicaid for services, noting that the original agreement included the State providing billers and that she would come back with a report when she had received more information.

**14. Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**

**a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.**

Commissioner Tipton noted that the SCOTUS decision on NEPA is expected to reduce lawsuits from non-governmental organizations. He informed the Board that the Committee had discussed the scope of work for the next agenda item, noting that the position had been vacant for a full year and the committee has no opposition to

working with RCI. The Committee also discussed working on roadless rules for the Forest Service to assist with firefighting efforts. Endangered Species Act, specifically the Fish Lake Valley Chuy Chub and the offer to provide letters of support to Esmeralda County. Commissioner Perez then gave the Board an overview of the issue surrounding the fish. He informed the Board that the County had acquired legal representation to provide their comment letter. Commissioner Perez also noted that the County would be grateful for letters of support. Vice President Andriola requested a scope of what support letters should include and Vinson stated that he would share information on the proposed listing. He noted that the best course of action is to let the team Esmeralda County assembled drive the comments and then build letters of support based on their letter. Commissioner Perez thanked the Board for their support. Commissioner Tipton then discussed a study from Idaho that proved that sage grouse and modern grazing practices work well together, and in some cases improve the landscape. He concluded his remarks by noting that nothing new had been discussed on other standing items. Commissioner Reese informed the Board that congress is working on disposal options for wild horses and burros in long-term holding.

- b. **Discussion of NACO Natural Resources Manager Vacancy, Including Approval of NACO's Executive Director to Explore Consulting Options with Resources Concepts, Inc, (RCI).** Vinson directed the Boards attention to the scope of work included in the agenda packet for approval, noting that the item is for ratification of the decision made by the Subcommittee. He informed the Board that RCI has existing relationships with counties and that they had previously done work for and with NACO. He also told the Board that the consulting contract's cost would not exceed the allocation for the position. Commissioner Steninger stated that the scope of work makes sense, and the item was approved on a motion by Commissioner Steninger with second by Commissioner Tipton.

15. **Update from NACO Committee of the Emeritus.** Vinson informed the Board that a meeting of the Committee was scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>.

16. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors.** Commissioner Kirkpatrick remarked on the summaries being provided on federal bills, and preparations for the processes to take place at the upcoming Annual Conference. President Elect Gardner informed the Board that he would be attending the conference in Philadelphia, noting that the election for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President would take place as well as further action on the 30 interim resolutions passed during the Legislative Conference. He also noted that one interim resolution was sent back to the policy steering committee because it was considered too partisan. He concluded the item by reminding the Board that the resolutions inform the lobbying efforts in Washington DC.

17. **Updates from Members of the Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board.** No reports were given.

18. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Board members gave updates on activities within their counties.

19. **Public Comment.** President Elect Gardner commented on a recent boating accident in Lake Tahoe that claimed several lives and reminded the Board to wear life vests when on bodies of water.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.